

Overview of the Discussion

On October 17, 2019, IMEMO hosted the presentation of the Russian edition of the SIPRI Yearbook 2018: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security, and the Supplement Russia: Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security to the English-language SIPRI Yearbook.

Both publications were prepared as part of a joint project between Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). This year the project celebrated its 26th anniversary.

The event was started off by Academician [Alexey Arbatov](#), Head of the Center for International Security (CIS), IMEMO, who conveyed congratulations to the audience on completion of the latest stage of the project on behalf of the President of IMEMO, Academician [Alexander Dynkin](#), who could not attend the event. Alexey Arbatov noted the high caliber of the Russian edition of the Yearbook and thanked all participants of the project for their contribution. In his speech he also criticized a new development in expert discourse, taking form of a pseudoscientific approach involving the denial of traditional forms of arms control.

Instead of reducing specific armaments and calculating arms balances, the proponents of this approach suggest discussing a new understanding of strategic stability. Such abstract discussions will result in nothing but the destruction of the system of agreements in this field which have been in place for over 50 years, and open the way for an unlimited arms race.

Director of IMEMO, Corresponding Member of RAS [Feodor Voitlovsky](#) addressed the participants with a welcoming speech. He pointed out a crisis state in bilateral (Russia-US) and multilateral arms control, brought about by, first and foremost, by the termination of the INF Treaty and the continuing uncertainty around New START. At the same time, creation and development of new types of weapons (hypersonic systems, high-precision conventional weapon systems, drones, etc.) necessitates the development of new approaches to control, verification and transparency measures.

Chief Research Fellow of the CIS, professor, one-star general (ret.) [Vladimir Dvorkin](#) emphasized the wide scope of issues covered in SIPRI Yearbooks, and noted that the Yearbook 2018 might be the last when the situation in the field of international security remained relatively stable. It is becoming increasingly difficult to predict what will happen in the nearest future not only in the field of arms control but also with the sustainability of the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). If the system of arms control agreements breaks up, then Russia and the United States will have to be content with very general understanding of the number and dynamics of each other's nuclear arsenals.

Member of the SIPRI Governing Board, Head of Research of the Center for Situational Analysis, IMEMO, Academician [Vladimir Baranovsky](#) recounted the key role that the joint project has in improving the quality of analysis and

transparency of data on a wide range of military-political issues, including military conflicts, arms control, military spending.

Thanks to the wide involvement of specialists from different countries, tracking of the long-term trends in arms control and international security, relying on extensive confirmed statistical data (SIPRI databases) and variety of sources used in the analysis, SIPRI Yearbooks have rightfully become a unique source of information on problems of peace, international security and arms control, and received a lot of praise from the international political and academic community.

Project Coordinator, Head of the Section of Military-Political Analysis and Research Projects of the CIS [Sergey Oznobishchev](#) drew attention to the emergence of some positive and encouraging factors in the context of military-political interaction between Russia and the West.

Comments were provided by the following speakers: Leading Researcher at the CIS Natalia Bubnova; Leading Researcher at the CIS Viktor Mizin; Leading Researcher at the Institute of the USA and Canada of the Russian Academy of Sciences (ISKRAN), three-star general (ret.) Viktor Esin; Leading Researcher at ISKRAN, general (ret.) Pavel Zolotarev; Senior Researcher at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences Vladimir Sotnikov; First Vice-President of the Academy of Military Sciences, one-star general (ret.) Nikolay Turko; Director of the Institute of Middle East Studies Ephem Zhigun and a number of other experts and representatives of relevant agencies.

The event was attended by representatives from several research institutes of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, the Military Academy of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, executive power bodies of the Russian Federation, foreign embassies (including the Ambassador of Sweden to the Russian Federation), scientists, specialists on international affairs, and journalists.